

Message Text

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ACTION EA-14

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 A-01 FBO-01 ABF-01 SY-10 CIAE-00 INR-10

NSAE-00 RSC-01 DODE-00 SS-20 NSC-10 OPR-02 OC-06

CCO-00 AID-20 USIA-15 DRC-01 MMS-03 SAM-01 TRSE-00

OMB-01 /118 W

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P 131101Z FEB 74

FM AMEMBASSY PHNOM PENH

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 4955

C O N F I D E N T I A L PHNOM PENH 2158

E. O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: ASEC

SUBJECT: URGENT NEED FOR FUNDS TO ESTABLISH AN ALTERNATE CHANCERY

1. ALTHOUGH WE REMAIN CONFIDENT OF FANK'S BASIC ABILITY TO DEFEND PHNOM PENH PROPER AGAINST A DETERMINED GROUND ATTACK, WE BELIEVE COMMUNIST FORCE WILL BE ABLE TO CONTINUE FOR THE INDEFINITE FUTURE SPROADIC ROCKET/ARTILLERY ATTACKS ON THIS CAPITAL CITY. THIS FORECAST, REINFORCED BY THE FREQUENCY AND INTENSITY OF SUCH HARASSMENT DURING THE PAST FEW WEEKS, HAS AGAIN COMPELLED US TO INTENSIFY OUR ASSESSMENTS OF THE SECURITY OF THE CHANCERY COMPOUND AND ITS ENVIRONS. WE HAVE CONCLUDED THAT: A) WE SHOULD CONTINUE TO STRENGTHEN IT AGAINST GROUND AND ROCKET/ARTILLERY ATTACKS AND CLANDESTINE PENETRATION (SEPTEL WILL ADDRESS NECESSARY ACTIONS IN DETAIL) AND, B) DESPITE THE PRECAUTIONARY MEASURES WE ENVISAGE AND THOSE WE HAVE TAKEN OVER PAST YEARS TO CREATE A REASONABLY SECURE COMPOUND, OUR FACILITIES CONTINUE TO BE QUITE VULNERABLE TO AIR AND TO ROCKET/ARTILLERY ATTACK.

2. OUR PRINCIPAL DEFENSE IS THE CONTINUATION OF OUR INTENSE SUPPORT OF AND COUNSEL TO FANK WITH THE OBJECTIVE, AT A MINIMUM, OF KHMER PERFORMANCE IMPROVED TO A DEGREE THAT WILL RENDER THE CITY RELATIVELY SECURE FROM INFILTRATION AND ATTACK. WE ARE NOT SANGUINE HOWEVER THAT THE DEGREE OF PROTECTION WE SEEK FOR

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THE CHANCERY WILL EVER BE ACHIEVED IN THE ABSENCE OF OUTSTANDING

FANK PERFORMANCE, A PROSPECT WE DO NOT ENVISAGE ON THE NEAR-TERM. ALTHOUGH THE COMPOUND PROPER MAY NOT CURRENTLY BE HIGH ON THE COMMUNIST FORCES' TARGETING SCHEDULE, ITS LOCATION IN THE SOUTH-EASTERN SECTOR OF THE CITY AND ITS PROXIMITY TO CHAMCAR MON (300 METERS), MARSHAL LON NOL'S RESIDENCE, PLACE IT IN A HIGH PRIORITY TARGET ZONE. IN FACT, SEVERAL 105MM HOWITZER ROUNDS LANDED WITHIN A FEW HUNDERED METERS OF THE CHANCERY DURING THE COMMUNIST ARTILLERY BARRAGE THE DAY BEFORE YESTERDAY. IN 1973 CHAMCAR MON WAS ALSO THE TARGET OF TWO AIRBORNE BOMBING ATTACKS. THE PROSPECTS OF OUR SUSTAINING DAMAGE ARE CONSIDERABLE. IT IS THEREFORE ESSENTIAL THAT WE HAVE ALTERNATE FACILITIES AVAILABLE SO AS TO ASSURE UNINTERRUPTED OPERATIONS. WE HAVE THEREFORE DESIGNATED THE DCM'S RESIDENCE (FORMERLY THE AMBASSADOR'S RESIDENCE) A COMBINED FACILITY, DCM RESIDENCE AND ALTERNATE CHANCERY. IT IS 500 METERS FROM THE CHANCERY AND HAS THE MOST SUITABLE LAYOUT FOR OUR PURPOSES (IN FACT THE CHANCERY WAS LOCATED IN BUILDINGS ON THAT PROPERTY 1969-70).

3. THE CONCEPT IS TO RENOVATE THE NON-REPRESENTATIONAL AREAS OF THE RESIDENCE AND THE FORMER SERVANTS' QUARTERS WITH COMMUNICATIONS, OFFICE EQUIPMENT, AND SUPPLIES, AND EXECUTE MINOR MODIFICATIONS ON THE INTERIOR ESSENTIAL TO USE AS OFFICES. SPACE IS AVAILABLE IN THE TWO BUILDING TO ACCOMMODATE SEVENTY EMPLOYEES IN THE OFFICE CONFIGURATION. IN THE EVENT THEREFORE THAT ANY AREA OF THE CURRENT COMPOUND WERE RENDERED UNUSABLE BY ATTACK, THE ALTERNATE CHANCERY WOULD BE IMMEDIATELY AVAILABLE TO ACCOMMODATE AS MANY AS SEVENTY EMPLOYEES OF ANY AGENCY, CIVILIAN AND/OR MILITARY. EMPLOYING EXCESS FURNITURE, EQUIPMENT, SUPPLIES, BUILDING MATERIALS, AND LOCAL LABOR, WE HAVE ALREADY TRANSFORMED THE RESIDENCE TO THE LIMIT OF OUR RESOURCES. ALTHOUGH AUSTERITY IS INHERENT IN EVERY FACET OF THIS UNDERTAKING, IT SCOPE IS NECESSARILY BEYOND THE EMBASSY'S CURRENT AND PROJECTED FINANCIAL CAPABILITY. THE DEPARTMENT'S ASSISTANCE IS THEREFORE ESSENTIAL. FUNDING REQUIRED TO BECOME OPERATION AT THE ALTERNATE CHANCERY IS AS FOLLOWS:

CATEGORY	COST (US \$)
COMMUNICATIONS:	
PABX, 90-STATION CAPACITY	\$29,000
C&R TELETYPE PRINTERS, REPRODUCTION MACHINE	20,000
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GENERAL SERVICES:

RENOVATION OF TWO BUILDINGS, LABOR AND MATERIALS (ELECTRICAL, CARPENTRY, MASONRY, PLUMBING)	8,500
OFFICE FURNITURE, EQUIPMENT, AND SUPPLIES	63,200

SECURITY:

CONSTRUCT TWO VAULT AREAS, LABOR AND MATERIALS	20,000
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EXTEND AND INCREASE HEIGHT OF PERIMETER WALLS	10,000
ACQUIRE AND BURY FUEL TANK FOR DIESEL GENERATORS	5,000
CLASSIFIED STORAGE CONTAINERS, TEN, \$2,860 PER UNIT G	20,000
PLEXIGLAS, INCINERATOR, EMERGENCY LIGHTING	10,500

TOTAL	\$186,200

4. ACTION REQUESTED:

A. YOUR APPROVAL OF THE ALTERNATE CHANCERY CONCEPT.

B. FISCAL DATA: \$186,200.

5. COUNTRY TEAM CONCURS.

ENDERS

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